

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A vertebral fixing system adapted to be mounted on a vertebra of the spine to connect it to a rod, said vertebra having a posterior wall in the vicinity of which said rod extends and lateral walls from which project ribs and/or transverse processes, said vertebral fixing system comprising:

[[ - ]] a connecting part adapted to face said rib and/or said transverse process and to be connected to said rod, said connecting part having a first face facing said rib and/or said process and a second face opposed to said first face and being provided with fastening means;

[[ - ]] an elongate flexible ligature adapted to connect together said connecting part and at least one rib and/or one transverse process, said flexible ligature having a first end secured to said fastening means, a first portion forming a loop, said first portion facing said first face of said connecting part and a second free end projecting out of said second face; and

[[ - ]] adjustable locking means fastened to said connecting part, ~~said ligature having a first end fastened to said connecting part and a free second end adapted to slide in said connecting part and to be formed into a loop,~~ said locking means being adapted to fix simultaneously in position said connecting part relative to said rod and [[one]] a second portion of said ligature between said ends being adapted to be immobilized in translation relative to said connecting part by said adjustable locking means, whereby the loop has a particular length, so as to prevent relative displacement of said rod and said vertebra in opposite directions.

13. (Currently Amended) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 12, wherein said connecting part includes a passage facing said rod and said ligature passes through the adjustable locking means to reduce [[the]] a section of said passage in order to press said ligature against said rod and simultaneously to fix said connecting part and at least one portion of said ligature in position relative to said rod.

14. (Currently Amended) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 12, wherein said connecting part comprises two longitudinal members whose first ends are connected together so that said members may pivot relative to each other and ~~[[the]]~~ middle parts of their two facing faces are adapted to bear on respective opposite sides of said rod, said adjustable locking means being adapted to drive the second ends of said longitudinal members forcibly towards each other and to fix them in position relative to each other so that said two members form a clamp and grip said rod, whereby said connecting part can be fixed in position relative to said rod.

15. (Currently Amended) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 14, wherein said second ends of said two longitudinal members have, facing each other, a bore a first longitudinal member ~~[[in one]]~~ and a thread in a second longitudinal member ~~[[the other]]~~, so that a screw may be passed through said bore and screwed into said thread to form said adjustable locking means.

16. (Currently Amended) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 15, wherein said first end of said ligature is fastened to ~~[[the]]~~ a pivot of said longitudinal members.

17. (Previously Presented) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the middle parts of said two facing faces has a first portion through which said passage passes and a second portion adapted to bear against said rod.

18. (Previously Presented) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 17, wherein said passage extends between two orifices in said connecting part and opening to the outside of said part so that said ligature is able to slide through said part.

19. (Previously Presented) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 18, wherein each of said middle parts of said two longitudinal members includes an orifice.

20. (Previously Presented) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 18, wherein said passage has a section that decreases from one orifice to the other so as to be able to exert a progressive pressure on said ligature portion between said two orifices to press it against said rod.

21. (Previously Presented) The vertebral fixing system according to claim 12, wherein said ligature consists of a strip of flexible material.

22. (New) A vertebral fixing system adapted to be mounted on a vertebra of the spine to connect it to a rod, said vertebra having a posterior wall in the vicinity of which said rod extends and lateral walls from which project ribs and/or transverse processes, said vertebral fixing system comprising:

a connecting part adapted to face said rib and/or said transverse process and to be connected to said rod;

an elongate flexible ligature adapted to connect together said connecting part and at least one rib and/or one transverse process; and

adjustable locking means fastened to said connecting part, said locking means being adapted to fix simultaneously in position said connecting part relative to said rod and one portion of said ligature between said ends being adapted to be immobilized in translation relative to said connecting part by said adjustable locking means, whereby the loop has a particular length, so as to prevent relative displacement of said rod and said vertebra in opposite directions, wherein said connecting part includes a passage facing said rod and said ligature passes through the adjustable locking means to reduce a section of said passage in order to press said ligature against said rod and simultaneously to fix said connecting part and at least one portion of said ligature in position relative to said rod.

23. (New) A vertebral fixing system adapted to be mounted on a vertebra of the spine to connect it to a rod, said vertebra having a posterior wall in the vicinity of which said rod extends and lateral walls from which project ribs and/or transverse processes, said vertebral fixing system comprising:

a connecting part adapted to face said rib and/or said transverse process and to be connected to said rod;

an elongate flexible ligature adapted to connect together said connecting part and at least one rib and/or one transverse process; and

adjustable locking means fastened to said connecting part, said locking means being adapted to fix simultaneously in position said connecting part relative to said rod and one portion of said ligature between said ends being adapted to be immobilized in translation relative to said connecting part by said adjustable locking means, whereby the loop has a particular length, so as to prevent relative displacement of said rod and said vertebra in opposite directions, wherein said connecting part comprises two longitudinal members whose first ends are connected together so that said members may pivot relative to each other and middle parts of their two facing faces are adapted to bear on respective opposite sides of said rod, said adjustable locking means being adapted to drive the second ends of said longitudinal members forcibly towards each other and to fix them in position relative to each other so that said two members form a clamp and grip said rod, whereby said connecting part can be fixed in position relative to said rod, wherein said second ends of said two longitudinal members have, facing each other, a bore in a first longitudinal member and a thread in a second longitudinal member, so that a screw may be passed through said bore and screwed into said thread to form said adjustable locking means, and wherein said first end of said ligature is fastened to a pivot of said longitudinal members.